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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Identical letters dated 5 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to apprise you of the terrorist attacks that occurred in the cities of Aleppo and Dayr al-Zawr in which armed terrorist groups indiscriminately fired shells at peaceful residential neighbourhoods.

In the morning of Tuesday, 5 April 2016, at rush hour, armed terrorist groups indiscriminately fired dozens of missiles and mortar shells at the Shaykh Maqsud neighbourhood and other peaceful neighbourhoods nearby in Aleppo city. The attack was carried out by the Nusrah Front and other armed terrorist groups, including the so-called Army of Conquest, Ahrar al-Sham and the Northern Front, that are entrenched in the areas around Aleppo city. Those groups, which some like to refer to as moderate armed groups, are commanded from operation rooms in Turkey. Preliminary estimates indicate that 15 civilians were killed and more than 100 others, including women, children and elderly persons, sustained injuries of varying severity. Three residential buildings in the Shaykh Maqsud neighbourhood collapsed as a result of the terrorists' indiscriminate shelling; efforts are currently under way to rescue civilians trapped under the rubble. The indiscriminate shelling also caused severe material damage to homes, stores and infrastructure.

On Monday, 4 April 2016, terrorist from the Nusrah Front and other armed terrorist groups attacked the towns of Fu'ah and Kafraya in the Aleppo countryside and the Shaykh Maqsud neighbourhood of Aleppo city. Eight civilians were killed and more than 20 others sustained various injuries, while damage of varying severity was caused to property and infrastructure. In Dayr al-Zawr, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorists and their supporters bombarded civilians in the Juwrah and Qusur neighbourhoods, killing five civilians and injuring dozens of defenceless persons. The attack also caused material damage to private and public property. In addition, ISIL terrorists attacked the Dayr al-Zawr civilian airport with mustard gas, causing cases of asphyxiation among the ranks of those defending the airport.

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The indiscriminate shelling of peaceful Syrian residential neighbourhoods that occurred yesterday and today is a continuation of the terrorist attacks that have been directed against many Syrian cities. It is also a continuation of the ongoing murder committed and destruction caused by "non-State armed groups" — the name invented by certain States and actors to cover up the cooperation, funding and support that they provide to armed terrorist groups — and a blatant attempt to circumvent the resolutions of the Security Council concerning counter-terrorism.

In addition, those armed terrorist groups, regardless of their loyalties, which are now known to all, are striving to thwart the measures adopted by the United Nations to halt combat operations in Syria. It should be noted that the armed terrorist groups have committed hundreds of violations during this period.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that it abides by the resolutions of the Security Council concerning the cessation of combat operations and stresses that the Council must take preventive measures against the regimes and Governments of those States that support and finance terrorism, in implementation of its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015).

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative